

(Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1394, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to exclude from gross income of individual taxpayers discharges of indebtedness attributable to certain forgiven residential mortgage obligations.

S. 1418

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1418, a bill to provide assistance to improve the health of newborns, children, and mothers in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2042

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2042, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct activities to rapidly advance treatments for spinal muscular atrophy, neuromuscular disease, and other pediatric diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 2119

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2119, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 2135

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2135, a bill to prohibit the recruitment or use of child soldiers, to designate persons who recruit or use child soldiers as inadmissible aliens, to allow the deportation of persons who recruit or use child soldiers, and for other purposes.

S. 2166

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2166, a bill to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2344

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2344, a bill to create a competitive grant program to provide for age-appropriate Internet education for children.

S. 2400

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2400, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to continue to pay to a member of the Armed Forces who is retired or separated from the Armed Forces due to a combat-related

injury certain bonuses that the member was entitled to before the retirement or separation and would continue to be entitled to if the member was not retired or separated, and for other purposes.

S. 2462

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2462, a bill to provide that before the Secretary of Defense may furlough any employee of the Department of Defense on the basis of a lack of funds, the Secretary shall suspend any nonessential service contract entered into by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2480

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2480, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publicly disclose the identity of long-term care facilities listed under the Special Focus Facility Program of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

S. CON. RES. 53

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 53, a concurrent resolution condemning the kidnapping and hostage-taking of 3 United States citizens for over 4 years by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and demanding their immediate and unconditional release.

S. RES. 396

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 396, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the hanging of nooses should be thoroughly investigated by Federal, State, and local law enforcement authorities and that any criminal violations should be vigorously prosecuted.

S. RES. 399

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 399, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that certain benchmarks must be met before certain restrictions against the Government of North Korea are lifted, and that the United States Government should not provide any financial assistance to North Korea until the Secretary of State makes certain certifications regarding the submission of applications for refugee status.

S. RES. 401

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 401, a resolution to provide Internet access to certain Congressional Research Service publications.

AMENDMENT NO. 3851

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3851 proposed to H.R.

2419, a bill to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2485. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Physical Therapist Student Loan Repayment Eligibility Act of 2007 with Senators JOHNSON, CARDIN, and BROWN on behalf of the folks across America who are in desperate need of access to qualified health care providers. This bill will help bring physical therapists to the rural, frontier and underserved communities of America.

Many rural States have an inadequate number of health professionals, let alone access to physical therapists whose services help shorten the recovery time from injury or surgery, as well as provide noninvasive treatment to conditions that might otherwise end up more severe.

We all know kids who go to school with dreams of becoming a health care professional and serving their communities. But, they graduate with so much debt that they have to take the highest paying job usually in an urban setting—leaving their dreams in the dust. My colleagues and I are offering this bill to help them fulfill that dream of working in underserved areas, often the very same areas they grew up in.

Like many other health care professionals serving in the National Health Service Corps, physical therapy students are more likely to serve in rural areas if it is financially feasible through the loan repayment program that is part of the National Health Service Corps.

The average total costs of tuition and fees for a physical therapist student attending an in-state public or private institution are \$26,000 and \$64,000 respectively. When they are starting out, they can expect to earn about \$51,000 per year. One can easily understand why they would be really tempted to find the highest paying job they can. Despite the health care needs, these jobs are not in places like Culbertson, MT; Martin, SD; Ironton, OH or Denton, MD, where reimbursement and salaries tend to be lower. However, a loan repayment program will make it possible for these committed health care professionals to be able to come into our communities, serve our families and be able to pay off their school loans.

My cosponsors and I think this a very important bill and we welcome our colleagues support. Thank you.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2485

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Physical Therapist Student Loan Repayment Eligibility Act of 2007”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS; PARTICIPATION OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS IN LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.

(a) MISSION OF CORPS; DEFINITION OF PRIMARY HEALTH SERVICES.—Section 331(a)(3)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(a)(3)(D)) is amended by striking “or mental health,” and inserting “mental health, or physical therapy.”

(b) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 338B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254f-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “and physician assistants,” and inserting “physician assistants, and physical therapists;”;

and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—
(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, or have a doctoral or master’s degree in physical therapy”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “physical therapy,” after “mental health;”;

and

(C) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by inserting “physical therapy,” after “dentistry.”

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 406—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA TO OVERTURN THE SENTENCE OF THE “GIRL OF QATIF”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. SPECTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 406

Whereas, in March 2006, the then-teenage woman known in media reports as the “Girl of Qatif” was abducted and raped by 7 men;

Whereas the “Girl of Qatif” endured significant physical and emotional harm as a result of her rape—a crime that was neither her fault nor acceptable under any circumstances;

Whereas, in October 2006, the General Court in Qatif, Saudi Arabia sentenced the 7 rapists to prison terms ranging from 10 months to 5 years, but also sentenced the victim to 90 lashes for being alone in a car with a man to whom she was not related;

Whereas, on November 13, 2007, when the “Girl of Qatif” appealed the decision of the General Court with her attorney, Abdul-Rahman al-Lahem, the victim’s sentence was increased to 200 lashes, a 6-month prison term was added, and the prison terms of the rapists were increased to 2 to 9 years;

Whereas, also on November 13, 2007, the General Court suspended Abdul-Rahman al-

Lahem’s license to practice law, and he was summoned to appear before a disciplinary committee of the Ministry of Justice of Saudi Arabia on December 5, 2007, for allegedly “misrepresenting legal subjects through the media to confuse the judicial establishment’s image and thus harming the country”, but his hearing was postponed to an unspecified date;

Whereas, on November 20 and 24, 2007, the Ministry of Justice issued statements on the case of the “Girl of Qatif”, alleging that the victim was guilty of an “illegal affair” that is “religiously prohibited”, that she was in “an indecent condition” at the time of her abduction, and that “the main reason for the occurrence of the crime” was that the victim and her accompanying person “violated the provisions of Islamic law”, but Abdul-Rahman al-Lahem has denied these accusations;

Whereas, when asked about the case of the “Girl of Qatif” on November 20, 2007, Department of State spokesman Sean McCormack stated, “We have expressed our astonishment at such a sentence. I think that when you look at the crime and the fact that now the victim is punished, I think that causes a fair degree of surprise and astonishment. But it is within the power of the Saudi Government to take a look at the verdict and change it”;

Whereas, on November 27, 2007, the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Saud bin Faisal bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, stated that the judiciary of Saudi Arabia would further review the case of the “Girl of Qatif”;

Whereas the Department of State’s 2006 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Saudi Arabia (referred to in this preamble as the 2006 Country Report), released on March 6, 2007, cited “significant human rights problems”, including “infliction of severe pain by judicially sanctioned corporal punishments”, “denial of fair public trials”, “exemption from the rule of law for some individuals and lack of judicial independence”, and “significant restriction of civil liberties—freedoms of speech and press, including the Internet; assembly; association; and movement”;

Whereas the 2006 Country Report also stated that Islamic law, or Shari’a, prohibits abuse and violence against all innocent persons, including women, yet reportedly spousal abuse and other forms of violence against women were common problems, although the Government did not keep statistics on such violence and abuse;

Whereas the 2006 Country Report also cited complaints that “judges often acted capriciously and did not base judgments on precedent, leading to widely divergent rulings”;

Whereas the 2006 Country Report also stated that, “A woman’s testimony does not carry the same weight as a man. In a Shari’a court, the testimony of one man equals that of two women”;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, done at Paris December 10, 1948, stipulates that all human beings have the right to security of person, that, “All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law”, and that, “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment”;

Whereas the legal system of Saudi Arabia is based on Shari’a and does not mandate specific punishments for many offenses, leaving judges with wide discretion in issuing verdicts; and

Whereas, in October 2007, the King of Saudi Arabia, Abdullah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, issued a decree to reform aspects of the country’s judicial system, including new training for judges, changes to the appeals process, and the establishment of two supreme courts to replace the Supreme Judi-

cial Council as the final recourse after courts of first instance and appellate courts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) respects the sovereign rights of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

(2) welcomes the commitment of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to reform its judicial system;

(3) condemns sexual violence in all forms;

(4) urges the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to undertake robust efforts to address the significant problem of violence against women in the society of Saudi Arabia, to promote equal treatment of women in the country’s legal system, and to ensure that victims of sexual violence are not punished for the crimes committed against them and have access to and recourse through the country’s legal system to bring the perpetrators of such violence to justice;

(5) urges the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to overturn the sentence of the “Girl of Qatif” of 200 lashes and 6 months in prison; and

(6) expresses solidarity with the “Girl of Qatif” and the women of Saudi Arabia in their efforts to address violence against women and attain equal treatment in their country’s legal system, and with the many citizens of Saudi Arabia who were outraged by the sentence of the “Girl of Qatif”.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3853. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2338, to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes.

SA 3854. Mr. COBURN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2338, *supra*.

SA 3855. Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3500 proposed by Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill H.R. 2419, to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

SA 3856. Ms. STABENOW (for Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KERRY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. DOLE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. NELSON, of Florida, Mr. BAYH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. SCHUMER)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3648, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude discharges of indebtedness on principal residences from gross income, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3853. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2338, to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of title I, insert the following:

SEC. 123. MORATORIUM ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RISK-BASED PREMIUMS.

For the 12-month period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall not enact, execute, or take any action to make